

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on January 25, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Derek Skees, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Adam Hertz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. James O'Hara (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Zac Perry (D)
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)
Rep. Adam Rosendale (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Rep. Nate McConnell (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sydney Kessel, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 297, 1/20/2017; HB 269, 1/20/2017

HEARING ON HB 297

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:51 Rep. Adam Hertz (R), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 297, Provide right-of-first-refusal for certain transmission lines.

EXHIBIT(feh18a01)

00:03:58 Rep. Morigeau joins the meeting

00:04:43 Rep. McConnell joins the meeting

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:22 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

00:13:29 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:14:23 Darryl James, Enbridge Energy

EXHIBIT(feh18a02)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:18:44 Rep. McConnell

00:19:09 Rep. Hertz

00:19:39 Rep. McConnell

00:19:45 Rep. Hertz

00:20:19 Rep. McConnell

00:20:49 Darryl James, Enbridge Energy

00:21:24 Rep. McConnell

00:21:37 Rep. C. Knudsen

00:22:19 Rep. Hertz

00:22:39 Vice Chair Hayman

00:23:01 Rep. Hertz

00:23:40 Vice Chair Hayman

00:24:18 Rep. Hertz

00:25:19 Rep. McConnell

00:25:49 Rep. Hertz

00:27:01 Rep. McConnell

00:27:06 Rep. Hertz

00:27:19 Rep. McConnell

00:27:24 Rep. Hertz

00:27:34 Rep. Olsen

00:28:06 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

00:28:36 Chair Zolnikov

00:29:07 Gary Wiens, MECA

00:32:51 Vice Chair Hayman

00:35:02 Gary Wiens, MECA

00:36:14 Rep. Custer

00:36:34 Gary Wiens, MECA

Closing by Sponsor:

00:36:49 Rep. Hertz

HEARING ON HB 269

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:38:35 Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 269, Require natural gas utilities to provide customer choice.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:40:41 Chad Bachmeier, Big Sky Gas
00:45:01 Patsy Rasch, Big Sky Gas
00:47:13 Bill Houston, Big Sky Gas
00:48:19 Dan McGowan, Big Sky Gas
00:49:52 John Iverson, Big Sky Gas

Opponents' Testimony:

00:51:55 Mike Green, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

[EXHIBIT](#)(feh18a03)

01:01:31 John Alke, North Western Energy (NWE)

Informational Testimony:

01:10:43 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Public Service Commission (PSC)

[EXHIBIT](#)(feh18a04)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:13:56 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:14:30 Mike Green, MDU
01:15:45 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:16:00 Mike Green, MDU
01:16:28 Rep. McConnell
01:17:30 Mike Green, MDU
01:18:50 Rep. McConnell
01:19:47 Mike Green, MDU
01:21:53 Rep. McConnell
01:22:37 John Alke, NWE
01:26:21 Rep. Rosendale
01:26:46 John Alke, NWE
01:28:08 Rep. Custer
01:28:42 John Alke, NWE
01:29:44 Vice Chair Hayman
01:30:35 Chad Bachmeier, Big Sky Gas
01:32:25 Vice Chair Hayman
01:32:33 Chad Bachmeier
01:34:26 Vice Chair Hayman
01:34:46 Chad Bachmeier
01:36:22 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:36:50 Mike Green, MDU
01:36:56 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:37:27 Mike Green, MDU
01:38:41 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:39:16 Mike Green, MDU

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01:40:01 Chair Skees
01:40:36 Jennifer Hill-hart
01:42:19 Chair Skees
01:42:38 Jennifer Hill-Hart
01:42:55 Chair Skees
01:43:25 John Alke, NWE
01:44:00 Chair Skees
01:49:23 Mike Green, MDU
01:50:40 Rep. Olsen
01:51:32 John Alke, NWE
01:55:25 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:56:10 Mike Green, MDU
01:57:10 Rep. C. Knudsen
01:57:23 Mike Green, MDU
01:58:02 Chair Skees
01:58:13 Mike Green, MDU
01:58:25 Rep. Custer
01:58:58 Mike Green, MDU

Closing by Sponsor:

02:00:11 Rep. Zolnikov

02:06:44 Rep. Zolnikov resumes Chair

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 02:07:21

Sydney Kessel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh18aad.pdf](#))